

Fear keeps Kadhafi's inner circle in line...

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Changes in the department of Labor

PG 4

Sweet revenge for Barca as Messi downs Real

PG 14

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Thursday, April 28, 2011

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

10th anniversary AHATA Recycled Art Contest sparks a new high in creativity



Carnival costumes made of straws and plastic bags by Jearitza



Paper Mache iguana by noted artist Ephriam Britten

Organizers of the annual Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) Environmental Committee Recycled Art Contest expressed their extreme satisfaction during the official opening on Tuesday afternoon, in not only the quantity of response for the call for entries, but the quality as well.

"I am certain we have over 200 works submitted," estimated Committee President Daniel Aguirre, "we even have an artist from Venezuela who has made a remarkable collection of cardboard art and furniture." The object of the contest is

to not only demonstrate that refuse can be recycled into lovely artwork, but also useful items as well.

Artist Miriam De L'Isle and the youngsters in her art school offered a diversity of entries in various age groups.

Resorts such as Playa Linda and Hyatt Regency sport pieces that very much reflect the nature of their different departments; a space ship from Engineering, or a mini-games table from the casino.

Noted island artist Ephriam Britten has created a remarkable papier-mâché iguana, and Jearitza has shown how colored straws and old plastic bags can be used for very professional looking carnival costumes.

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Deficit reduced to 75 Million according to Minister of Finance Mike de Meza

Aruba's 2010 budget declared a deficit of 138 million Aruban florins; without consideration of additional income of 210 million received from an agreement with Valero Aruba Refinery, the budgetary deficit would have been 275 million Florins. The current administration of Prime Minister Mike Eman has stated it is committed to a sustainable and responsible public finance, and is keeping expenses at the same level as that of 2010, hence the reduction of the budget deficit to 75 million, according to Finance Minister, Mike de Meza.

Minister De Meza explained that the government has maintained spending at the same level of that of 2010, and so doing, has reduced the budget deficit to 75 million as compared to last year. He is convinced that the National Dialogue has contributed to this reduction. He stated "the government introduced the austerity pension program for government officials and politicians and a new pension system for all civil employees. As a result of these measures they succeeded in safeguarding the government's general pension program APFA. The government together with the AZV implemented conditions for the management and financing of health in general. This resulted in a savings of 25 million florins annually of the government's contribution to the AZV fund." The Minister of Finance also instituted a reduction of 35% on spending with respect to the government's operational budget, and has also maintained the already-in-place no new employment of government personnel policy.



Minister Mike de Meza

icy.

The island's income is at slightly above 1 billion florins, while expenses are at almost 1.3 billion florins. In November of 2009, Minister Eman's administration borrowed 100 million florins to cover outstanding expenses they inherited from the previous administration. Aruba's Central Bank envisions an economic increase of 12%.

The law regarding the island's budget is at the Office of the Governor and is expected to reach the General Government Counsel (Raad van Advies) to complete the legislative process. The budget, in essence, is what determines the management process of the present government for 2011, and is expected to be within the prescribed financial framework delineated in 2010, according to Finance Minister, Mike de Meza.

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Ex-president of Costa Rica sentenced to prison: judge

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AFP) — A Costa Rican court sentenced former president Miguel Angel Rodriguez to five years in prison Wednesday after finding him guilty of corruption stemming from bribes allegedly paid by a French company.

"Miguel Angel Rodriguez Echeverria has been found to have been the main instigator of the crime of aggravated corruption ... and will receive a sentence of five years in prison," Rosaura Garcia, the lead criminal judge on the second circuit panel in San Jose, announced.

Rodriguez, a former head of the Organization of American States who resigned in 2004 when the scandal broke, also was barred from public office for 12 years, the court said.



Miguel Angel Rodriguez, former Costa Rica President (1998-2002) AFP/File

Fear keeps Kadhafi's inner circle in line: US envoy

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Many of Moamer Kadhafi's aides wish to defect, but fear is the simple and compelling reason keeping the embattled Libyan strongman's inner circle from abandoning him, the US envoy to Tripoli said.

"They would like to break, but they're, number one, afraid -- afraid for their lives. And they're also afraid for their families," Ambassador Gene Cretz told reporters, referring to ministers "and other technocrats" who comprise Kadhafi's closest clique.

Cretz said this "hard core" of supporters, who also include family, military and se-

curity chiefs who "in effect have received the benefit of his largesse over the years, ... probably believe that their last stand has to be with him because they probably don't have a future."

Members of the US administration "are, in fact, in touch with some of these officials from time to time," even as Washington takes part in NATO air strikes against his force, Cretz said.

He said NATO action in Libya, and notably the recent attacks on Kadhafi's compound by allied warplanes, has sent a now-or-never signal to his backers. "The time is fast approaching where

they have to make the decision -- and they can make a decision to either go down with the ship or else change sides and perhaps seek some kind of agreement as to their future lives or the future lives of their family, if that's what's important to them."

Former foreign minister Moussa Koussa is the most senior Libyan official to abandon Kadhafi's regime. He arrived in London on March 30.

Cretz was appointed ambassador to Libya in 2008, and returned to Washington in early January, prior to the current crisis.

Belgium's Leterme: an unelected premier for the long-haul



BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) — A full year after quitting elected office, Belgium's Yves Leterme remains King Albert II's caretaker premier, and nothing leads him to believe he can look for a new job any time soon.

"I hope we get a deal as soon as possible, a good deal (for Belgium)," Leterme told AFP after international media gently mocked his anniversary this week, citing his administration's collapse, an election rout, and the country's world record-breaking period without an elected government.

"But if a deal doesn't emerge, we will continue to

manage the country's day-to-day affairs," he underlined.

Leterme admits his unelected position is "a bit strange," and made no secret of his view that the biggest winner of last June's federal elections, separatist Flemish hardliner Bart De Wever's N-VA party, had no interest in assuming power.

"We had an election, people won an awful lot of votes, they won the elections and yet ultimately it was not their objective to lead the country," he said.

The cultural, political, economic and budgetary fault-

lines dividing Dutch-speaking Flanders, French-speaking Wallonia and bilingual Brussels are beginning to look ungovernable in the long-term.

The joke says the trains have never run better, and certainly the unelected Leterme passed a budget enabling public-sector wages to be paid and also contributed to the air war in Libya against Moamer Kadhafi.

But any number of proposals made by a succession of mediators and aimed at granting more fiscal independence to wealthy Flanders have each failed to placate De Wever.

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Ingrid Does
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Rosalinda Maduro
Chandette Richardson
Editors

Marline v. d. Linden
Asst. to the editors

Rosalie Klein
Reporter / Photographer

Yvonne Kromhout
P.R., Sales & Marketing

Yanis Garcia
Paula Iglesias
Sales

News Provider:
AFP-Agence France Presse

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail:
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Website:
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

5 police killed in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia — Five Colombian police officers were killed and two wounded when suspected leftist rebels attacked two police posts in different regions, authorities said.

Three officers died and three civilians were wounded Tuesday night in a car-bomb blast targeting a police station in the southwestern town of Jambalo followed by two hours of shelling by homemade mortars, the regional police commander, Gen. Orlando Pineda, told The Associated Press. Fifteen adjoining homes were damaged.

Pineda blamed the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which is active in the region along with far-right militias and drug traffickers.

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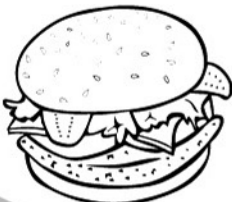
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Congestion at Census Office now a thing of the past



Acquiring documents from the Oranjestad Census Office has been known for years as a dreary task made so by constant congestion and long waiting lines. Complaints have been constant and unanswered over the years. The congestion only grew worse, and for some time those who need documentation were forced to line up for long periods outside the door in the hot sun long before opening hours to get a number for service, or because there was no room inside.

Prime Minister Eman, at the outset of his tenure in 2009, paid a personal visit to the Census Office to ascertain the situation. This visit was followed almost immediately with a meeting including the Head of the Census Office, Mrs. Luydens and the Director of DIA, Mr. de Cuba, to formulate a plan to utilize all the Government District Auxiliary Offices (hulpbestuurskantoor) so as to alleviate the situation at the Oranjestad office. A commission was put in place to devise a solution; said solution has been enacted.

Formerly closed Savaneta Auxiliary Office Re-opened:

Towards the end of May of 2010, the District Auxil-

iary Office of Savaneta was reopened to provide the usual and additional services, such as the payment of phone bills, utility bills and payment of rent to FCCA. Prime Minister Eman remarked on the opening day of the facility in Savaneta that "the objective is to improve the quality of service and afford citizens in the barrio the opportunity to have additional services, especially for our elders. Everyone should be able to receive all the documentation they need, and to do all required business in their district; which will alleviate the congestion at the main Census Office in Oranjestad." Following this, the auxiliary office in San Nicolaas was reopened, and another Santa Cruz, then Paradera and finally the Noord Office.

Additional Services available at the auxiliary offices in the barrios:

The DIA department (department in charge of IT for the government) was responsible for the technological systems required for each office. Each is now digitally interconnected directly with the head Census Office in Oranjestad. This means that certain documents that previously were available only at the head office in the

city can now be obtained at the auxiliary offices in each district. There are five documents in particular now available, which had not been previously: Civil Registry, (fls.5 document), proof of good conduct form, the Atestatae de Vita document (proof that the person in question is still living), request form for free lawyer's services, and request form for welfare support.

Long lines at the City Office can be avoided:

Despite the additional and well-programmed services in the auxiliary offices in the barrios, there are still long lines at headquarters in Oranjestad. An investigation conducted during the past weeks revealed that on a daily basis there are more or less 200 petitions for one of the documents now available at any of the auxiliary Offices in the barrios. This is an alarming number of people who could easily attend to their business at one of the auxiliary offices within 15 minutes rather than to send in line for hours. The government wants every citizen to be aware of the services now being offered close to home in their barrio. All are encouraged to make good use of the office closest to them and save precious time.

National Social Dialogue on Energy

Because every institution in our community is interested in incorporating a national social dialogue on energy management, such a social dialogue will soon be organized specifically on the theme of energy.

The international forecast indicates that the price of crude oil on the international market will continue to rise steadily in the next decades.

The administration of Prime Minister Mike Eman has affordable energy as a top priority and forms an integral part of its vision. The government's energy philosophy for 2009 – 2013 incorporates the reduction and stabilization of the cost of the production of water and electricity in a sustainable manner in keeping with our environment. The Prime Minister has taken immediate action to eliminate by next year our dependence on conventional sources for the production of water and electricity, such as fuel oil.

During the first Green Energy Conference held here last September 2010, the government made an official announcement of their energy management philosophy. This includes the doubling of our capacity of wind energy. WEB, Aruba's water and electricity plant, is completing plans for expanding their wind energy production with and additional 30 mw, which represents a doubling of the current wind energy production, according to Minister Eman. The WEB executives are exerting maximum effort to finalize the changes from the existing turbine system to a more modern turbine system which will also be capable of producing gas. This project is scheduled to be

completed by mid-2012.

The introduction of gas as a new source of energy for the production of water and electricity has been formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding between Valero and Aruba. Because the price of gas is independent of the price of fuel oil and subsequently also less expensive and more stable, this will result in a substantial reduction in the production costs of water and electric power. According to Minister Mike de Meza, who has Utilities and Energy under his watch, "one important aspect of the conversion of fuel oil to gas is that gas is sustainable and good for the environment. Through the use of gas we will reduce our CO2 emissions by nearly 70%."

Valero Aruba Refinery has already presented the government their plans for the construction of a pier for gas carrying tankers, along with the building of a storage tank on their premises. In addition to this, the gas giant of the Netherlands, Gasunie, a state run company, is also lending their support to the conversion process here in Aruba.

During the recent National Social Dialogue it was noted how the negative effects of fuel prices worldwide is affecting our local economy.

Continue on pg 5



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New Entity Introduced and Changes in the Department of Labor



Minister Oduber explains the changes to the press

In a recent press conference, the Minister of Labor, Otmar Oduber, explained the new management procedure regarding foreign admissions and the positive and negative advice process relative to receiving a work permit.

Present at the press conference were Department of Labor director, Mr. F. Kock and chief of the Admissions Division of the Department of Labor, Mr. Anthony Lee.

The new process begun 5 months ago, separating the new Job/Employment Administration (arbeidsvoorziening), which encompasses the job center, admissions and manpower planning, from the Department of Labor.

The process of separating the two entities from each other was handled by a private company.

The Minister mentioned his regret that erroneous information has been circulating regarding the vision delineated for the changes to be enacted. The report outlining the new department should be completed by next month. This report details how, among others, the new approach for dealing with the public, and the creation of a data base center for job seekers and how to place them in job vacancies.

Oduber emphasized that "this means that slowly the business of fictitious job va-

cancies by employers and fictitious job applications from job seekers will be a thing of the past." The new process will eliminate said practices.

Minister Oduber reiterated emphatically that there is a formal protocol between the Minister of Labor and the Minister of Integration – Minister Sievinger, who is in charge of everything dealing with job permits.

No work permit will be issued if all the published requirements have not been met. With this, the Minister declared that there is an understanding that when the Department of Labor, who continuously monitors the local workforce, submits a negative advice regarding a request for a work permit, automatically this advice becomes negative for the DIMAS as well. This, in essence, completes the petition process. In the event that the Department of Labor issues a positive advice, in keeping with all the prescribed criteria, and concurs with the Department of Labor and the Minister, the person in question will receive the requested work permit.

All first work permits must have a positive advice from the Department of Labor without which the DIMAS will not issue a work permit. The Minister added that it can occur that in certain instances, even after the positive advice of the Department of Labor which was based on their analysis of the local workforce, DIMAS, on the basis of their security analysis and criminal investigation, may still deny the issuance of a work permit. However, the Minister wanted to make it crystal clear that no work permits will be issued without a positive advice from the Department of Labor.



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Jair Tromp

Last week many people were camping at Aruba's beaches, spending quality time with family and friends. Monday night everybody was tired and resting, listening to the wind and the sea, almost asleep...hey...a strange noise...sand swept in the tent...what is happening?

A huge sea turtle is digging her nest! It happened at Arashi next to Jair Tromp's tent! Turtugaruba was informed and came immedi-

ately.

The volunteers explained this is a Leatherback Sea Turtle, the biggest species of sea turtles in the world. So far this season a total of 12 nests are laid at Eagle Beach and Arashi. Also at other beaches around the island turtle activity is going on.

If you find any turtle tracks or sea turtle activity please call Turtle Hotline (5929393) as soon as possible. Thanks!

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Marleen Onderstal & Daniel Folman said "I do"



On April 18th 2011 Marleen Onderstal & Daniel Folman said "I do" at one of Aruba's Landmark; the famous Fo-foto Trees located in front of the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort.

Being avid travelers they opted for Aruba as the spot to celebrate their most special day, and the fact that they wanted to exchange vows in their native language "Dutch".

The day started with the

Civil Ceremony at City Hall, followed by a Beach Blessing and ended with a wonderful wedding reception at Passions on the Beach Restaurant.

The couple was accompanied by 15 of their closest family members and friends.

Amsterdam Manor staff & management, together with The Morning News wishes the lovely couple a wonderful life together and hope to see them back in sunny Aruba.

Continued from pg 3 National Social Dialogue on Energy

"In the light of this, the government has decided to implement a substantial reduction on import duties and levy a nominal import duty of 2% for all alternative energy products. The government has also entered into strategic partnerships on the energy platform with such companies as TNO and Delft in their quest to explore more efficient ways to manage, in the most sustainable and favorable manner, the production of water and electricity," reported Minister de Meza.

Prime Minister Eman also intimated that in the near future our waste production will also be used as a means for producing energy for Aruba.

The use of solar panels will also soon be a normal form of energy production in Aruba even before the end of the current Eman Administration, according to Eman.

According to Mike de



company) will continue their campaign of providing information and making citizens more aware of purchasing practices with respect to electrical products and on the use of alternative energy sources in their homes. ELMAR will become more than just a distributor of electricity.

The price of petroleum has risen by almost 30% in the past months. But, the government has succeeded in limiting the effect of this steep increase by only 10% on the price of water and electricity. According to our government officials ...

"everyday we are personally actively involved in this issue. The results of our vision and philosophy on energy will give Aruba independence from fuel-oil as a source of energy and liberate us from the "brandstof-clausule" energy surcharge by next year."

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Forecasters predict multiple US hurricane landfalls

MIAMI (AFP) — Several powerful storms will likely strike the US mainland this hurricane season, especially in the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico region, a prominent weather forecaster said.

Weather Services International predicts 15 storms strong enough to be named, eight hurricanes and at least four hurricanes of category 3 strength or greater on the five-level Saffir-Simpson scale.

"We do expect another active season in 2011, although not to the level of 2005 or 2010," said WSI chief meteorologist Todd Crawford.

WSI forecasters "expect a much more impactful season along the US coastline," he said in a statement.

No hurricane has struck the US mainland since 2008, an unusual three-year drought unseen since the 1860s. "Our recent good fortune in avoiding landfalling

hurricanes is not likely to last," said Crawford.

The US Gulf Coast is especially threatened this hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30.

The Gulf and Caribbean sea surface temperatures "are particularly warm this year, and we expect more development in these regions and less in the eastern tropical Atlantic."

"Storms developing in the Gulf and Caribbean are a

much greater threat to make landfall along the US coast than those that develop off the coast of Africa," said Crawford.

The 2011 forecasts by WSI, a member of The Weather Channel Companies, are similar to those ahead of the 2008 season, when Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav, and Ike struck Louisiana and Texas in the US Gulf Coast.

The current forecast revises a December forecast

predicting 17 named storms, nine hurricanes, and five intense hurricanes.

The forecast was changed because tropical Atlantic sea surface has since cooled, and the La Nina event weakened faster than expected, reducing the chances of big Atlantic storms during the upcoming tropical season, said Crawford.

La Nina is associated with cooler than normal waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

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Health & Living

J&J agrees to \$21 bn takeover deal

ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) – US health care giant Johnson & Johnson announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement whereby Johnson & Johnson will acquire US-Swiss medical technology company Synthes for 159 Swiss francs per share, or \$21.3 billion, (15.7 billion euros) they said in a joint statement released on Synthes's website.

"The transaction is expected to close during the first half of 2012," the companies added.

Although the deal has been approved by the boards of Synthes and Johnson & Johnson, it is still subject to approval by shareholders as well as regulatory authorities in the United States and European Union.

Synthes, the product of the merger in 1999 of US and Swiss firms, specialises in instruments, implants and biomaterials for use in orthopaedic surgery. It would be grafted on to Johnson's own orthopaedic specialist, DePuy.

"DePuy and Synthes together will create the most innovative and comprehensive orthopaedics business in the world," said Bill Weldon, chairman and chief executive of Johnson.

"Orthopaedics is a large and growing \$37 billion global market and represents an important growth driver for Johnson & Johnson," he added.

The deal ranks alongside US group Duke Energy's \$25 billion proposed takeover of rival Progress Energy announced this year and behind telecommunications giant AT&T's proposed \$39 billion acquisition of US operations of Germany's T-Mobile.

It would also bring a huge windfall for Synthes chairman Hansjoerg Wyss, who owns about 40 percent of the company.

Forbes magazine rated the 76-year-old's fortune at \$6.4 billion in March, ranking him at 154th on its global rich list.

Analysts at Zuercher Kantonalbank (ZKB) expressed surprise at the deal, noting that Wyss had been reluctant to let go until now.

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Health Tip:

Stay Inside When Spring Allergens Are at a Peak

-- Seasonal allergies can cause itchy, watery eyes, nasal congestion and sneezing.

The University of Maryland Medical Center suggests these lifestyle changes to ease seasonal allergy symptoms from outdoor allergens:

-Start your allergy medications a week or two before the season starts.

-Don't take a camping trip or go on a hike when pollen counts are high.

-Stay away from barns and hay, and try not to mow the grass or rake leaves.

-Wear sunglasses to keep pollen out of the eyes.

-After spending time outside, take a shower and wash hair, change clothes and rinse out the nasal passages with a salt water rinse.

-Close windows and doors during allergy season.





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continued from pg 1

10th anniversary AHATA Recycled Art Contest sparks a new high in creativity



Veteran participant and previous winner Agnes Leslie has

again demonstrated remarkable ingenuity with beautiful

jewelry made of paper beads. Each year she astounds the judges with her very polished and professional handicrafts.

The entries are on display in the Exposition Room at the Cas di Cultura on the eastern outskirts of Oranjestad. Contest winners will be announced at the closing of the exposition on Friday, May 6. The exposition room is open daily and on weekends for all to come and admire and be inspired by the beautiful and useful ways to recycle.

By Rosalie Klein





MI DUSHI
The Great Escape
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Afikoman Tours provide a luxurious Passover at the Aruba Westin Resort



Booky Erlich and wife Leah perform the blessing over the wine



dancing through the dining room in celebration of the end of Passover



Avi Erlich with wife Debbie and daughter Sarah



Mentalist Guy Bavli back bending spoons with wife and daughter

Baruch (Booky) Erlich and his wife Leah, owner/operators of Afikoman Tours of Los Angeles, brought a group of over 300 Jews from around the world to observe Passover on Aruba, spending the eight days at the Westin Aruba Resort in Palm Beach, which hosted the group last year.

Westin has been hosting Passover groups for over ten years and are well acquainted with the requirements for the holiday; a separate kitchen goes through the special koshering process under Rabbinical supervision and the groups take over an entire ballroom for meals and as their sanctuary for services.

Afikoman Tours pride themselves on providing authentic luxury for their guests and sport a devoted following. For fifteen years they have hosted groups in their native California, Puerto Rico, Cancun, and Arizona. "We like to offer our people variety," com-

mented Leah, "but last year, everyone was so pleased with Aruba; the beaches, the quality of the resort and service, the reliable weather, we felt it was worth a return visit."

"The people on Aruba were markedly sincere and hospitable," observed her son Avi, who assists them with arranging their annual getaway, and believes he is very fortunate to be able to share the experience with his parents, wife Debbie and daughter Sarah. "I was astounded when I arrived this year, as the cab driver from the airport recognized me from last year! I think that is absolutely amazing!"

Another repeat visitor to Aruba with the group this year is Guy Bavli, who was contracted to entertain during their stay on the island. Guy, originally from Israel, is a mentalist, and his famous spoon-bending act entertained many when he spent 3 months performing on Aruba nearly 10

years ago.

Afikoman Tours brings a staff of 50 to Aruba with them to provide every amenity to their guests. They transport the equipment to provide a game room with pool table, foosball, table tennis and more for all ages. This year, guest speakers Rabbis Ivan Lerner and Arthur Schneier along with Drs. Jeremy and Erica Brown led stimulating and thought-provoking panel discussions. Specialized staff members keep both adults and children entertained throughout the week, and a daily kids' camp allow the adults to relax and enjoy the island with some special time together.

"There are a number of tour groups active with Passover tours," commented Leah, "but ours are particularly known as luxurious. We bring award winning chefs and provide activities and entertainment to satisfy every taste. We have a dedicated clientele from around the world; our families come from Caracas, London, Paris, Israel —really a mixed group from around the U.S. and the globe. Many families, particularly the mothers, who are usually stuck with all the exhausting preparation Passover requires, find it is for more enjoyable for all the family to get away and leave the work to someone else."

Afikoman Tours ended their stay on Tuesday evening, before most departed on Wednesday, with a special "breaking of the bread," - sharing a late evening meal, once the required number of stars were in the sky, which marked the end of Passover and consumption of normal foods not allowed during the holiday.

by Rosalie Klein



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Finance

Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim appeals record fine



MEXICO CITY, Mexico (AFP) – Telcel, the Mexican cell phone company led by the world's richest man Carlos Slim, announced yesterday it will appeal a record one billion dollar fine imposed by the anti-trust regulator.

"Telcel will use the legal means at its disposal to defend itself," faced with the "opportunistic and excessive" fine, imposed April 15 by the Federal Competition Commission (Cofeco), a statement said.

Telcel was studying other actions it could take against the "illegal resolution," it added.

Cofeco said it had imposed its largest ever fine due to alleged monopolistic practices by Telcel, whose parent company America Movil leads Latin America's cell phone market.

The fine followed an in-

vestigation started in 2006 over fees charged for connection fees to wireless networks. A group of 20 rival telecommunications companies had also called in March for Telcel's interconnection fees to be cut.

But Telcel said it was not to blame for the connection rates, arguing the fees been decided in individual deals overseen by the regulator.

Telcel controls 70 percent of Mexico's cell phone market, while America Movil had 225 million subscribers in 18 countries at the end of last year.

The fine was equivalent to 13.2 percent of the 2010 net profits of America Movil, of some 7.8 billion dollars.

Tycoon Slim, 71, last month made the top of the Forbes rich list for a second consecutive year with a fortune of \$74 billion.

BP raises profits, Gulf oil spill costs

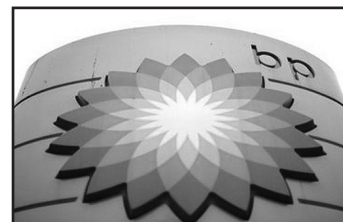
LONDON (AFP) – BP's first-quarter net profits leapt 17 percent thanks to high crude prices, the British energy giant said Wednesday, adding it was raising the cost of last year's fatal Gulf oil spill disaster.

Earnings after tax jumped to \$7.124 billion (4.9 billion euros) in the three months to March, compared with the first quarter of 2010, BP said in a results statement.

It added that the 2010 Gulf of Mexico spill would cost BP \$41.3 billion, up from a previous guidance of \$40.9 billion, and warned of "significant uncertainty" surrounding the company's ultimate exposure.

"The aftershocks from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill continue to impact BP," said equity analyst Keith Bowman at Hargreaves Lansdown Stockbrokers.

"Production is lower,



thanks to forced asset sales made in order to pay for last year's catastrophe, whilst the exact cost of the oil spill is still as yet unknown."

Oil and gas production sank 11 percent to 3.58 million barrels per day, as output was hit by the BP's decision to sell off \$30 billion of assets to meet the clean-up bill.

BP added in the statement: "The primary additional factors impacting the first-quarter result ... were lower production volumes, higher costs, higher exploration write-offs and a lower contribution from gas marketing and trading."

BP shares closed up 0.39 percent at 466 pence as investors looked past the Gulf fallout to focus on the profits rise. London's benchmark FTSE 100 index dipped 0.02 percent to 6,068.16 points.

Wednesday's first-quarter results were published one year after an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig killed 11 workers and caused millions of barrels of oil to spew into the sea.

The blast on April 20, 2010 ravaged BP's fortunes in what has been widely acknowledged to be the worst environmental catastrophe in US history.

BP is attempting to move on from the disaster, which knocked billions of dollars off its value, after agreeing to share responsibility with the owner of the rig, Transocean.

Ex-Air France-KLM execs indicted in price-fixing case



NEW YORK (AFP) – Two former executives of Air France-KLM's cargo division were indicted by a federal grand jury this week in Chicago on charges of conspiring with other airline companies to fix prices.

Marc Boudier, former executive vice president of Air France's cargo division, and Jean Charles Foucault, former vice president for sales and marketing for the cargo division, face up to 10 years in prison and a million dollar fine if convicted.

"Boudier and Foucault carried out a conspiracy by fixing and coordinating rates on

air cargo shipments to certain US locations and elsewhere and surcharges on air cargo shipments to and from the United States and elsewhere," the Justice Department alleged.

"According to the indictment, Boudier and Foucault participated in the conspiracy from at least as early as August 2004 until at least February 2006," it said.

In all, 21 companies and 21 executives, including Boudier and Foucault, have been accused of price fixing as a result of a US investigation conducted over a period of several years in the United States and Europe.

In 2008, four airlines, including Air France-KLM, admitted to an attempt to fix prices for air freight to the United States. Air France-KLM had to pay a 350 million fine, the second largest ever in an anti-trust case.

Air France, KLM and the Franco-Dutch group's Martinair Holland were ordered to pay fines totalling 10 million

Canadian dollars (8.7 million dollars US) to Canada for the same offenses.

Air France-KLM, meanwhile, has appealed a fine of nearly 350 million euros imposed by the European Commission as a result of the price-fixing affair.

The company has been sued by hundreds of European companies, including Philips and Ericsson, who are seeking more than 500 million euros in damages caused by the scheme.

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	HOST	INGOT			
ALSO	HAWN	IDO			
CAPP	ALI	ANDS			
EVE	EGOS	BASS			
DEWEY	NEAL				
	DEL	WYNN			
JIMI	OREO	OAK			
ANAT	SALK	UNE			
ICES	TYKE	NAY			

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Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal



The famous Saté

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist. Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese.

Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in the sauce. If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.



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7-Up is on the look-out for friends and family members



We would like to introduce 7-Up to you, one of the donkeys living at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. She came to the sanctuary in 2010 when the volunteers received a phone call that there was a roaming donkey in the vicinity of the Palomarga Race-track. Catching this donkey

proved to be very easy, as she was seriously ill. According to the vet she had anemia and she needed a series of drips. During the entire time that she received extra care, the volunteers also gave her extra vitamins, but nothing seemed to work. However, 7-Up had a surprise: she was around

five months pregnant. Unfortunately she lost her baby; normally donkeys have a gestation period of eleven to fourteen months. After her miscarriage, 7-Up got her strength back and now she is as good as new.

7-Up has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way she can be recognized and all her medical information is on it. All the donkeys at the sanctuary are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers try to cover the cost through organizing all kinds of activities and by selling nice souvenirs in the store. Fortunately there are visitors who adopt a donkey now and then, who donate money or who buy something in the store. They help keep the

sanctuary afloat that way.

The volunteers are now looking for people who wish to adopt 7-Up. She will stay at the sanctuary, of course; the only thing that is needed is that AWG. 30,-- per month is paid for her keep. In this way you help support this wonderful donkey as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website. The sanctuary is open on weekdays from 9 – 4 pm and in the weekends from 10 – 3 pm; visitors are very welcome. The sanctuary is also a great place to drink cup of coffee or a juice or eat an ice cream.

Please call the Donkey Sanctuary at 593 2933 and become 7-Up's new family member; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website www.arubandonkey.org. or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025. Please help!

Russians 'never, had sex in space'

MOSCOW (AFP) – Russian or Soviet cosmonauts never had sex in space in the 50 years of human exploration of the cosmos. And that's official, according to a Russian expert. As for Americans, well, you'd better ask them.

"There's no official or unofficial evidence that there were instances of sexual intercourse or the carrying out of sexual experiments in space," Valery Bogomolov, deputy director of the Moscow-based Institute of Biomedical Problems told the Interfax news agency.

"At least, in the history of Russian or Soviet space exploration this most certainly was not the case," said Bogomolov. Rumours have persisted for years of secret Russian and American programmes to test the effects of weightlessness on sex but this has always been strongly denied by both sides. "As for American space exploration, well, I just don't have the information to categorically deny that," said Bogomolov.

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Football: Sweet revenge for Barca as Messi downs 10-man Real



Madrid : Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the Champions League semi-final first leg football match between Real Madrid and Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on April 27, 2011.

MADRID, Spain (AFP) - Argentina's two-time world player of the year Lionel Messi scored a superb late brace as Barcelona gained the upper hand in their Champions League semi final with a 2-0 first leg win over arch rivals Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday.

Real were down to ten men after Pepe had been sent off on the hour mark and Barca made the extra man count with Messi converting an Ibrahim Afellay cross on 76 minutes and then scored a mesmerising goal on 86 minutes for his 11th Champions League goal of the season.

Messi has now scored on each of his last four visits to the Bernabeu and the late goals are a huge setback for Real coach Jose Mourinho, who was sent to the stands for protesting the dismissal of Pepe.

Madrid must now pull off a miracle and win well at Camp Nou in the second leg on May 3 if they are to reach their first final since 2002.

"Another miracle with ten men wasn't possible," said an angry Mourinho. "Yes, I think we are eliminated. We will go to Camp Nou with everything and to get a result but I can't see it."

"We will be without Pepe

and (Sergio) Ramos who didn't do anything and neither did I. I just want to know why? Why did Pepe get sent off? I just want someone to explain. Why did it happen?"

For Barcelona it was the perfect revenge after their Kings Cup loss a week ago and they will aim to finish the job at home and reach their first final since 2009 when they won the trophy as part of a historic treble.

A war of words had spiced up this red-hot fixture further with the usually calm Pep Guardiola hitting out at Mourinho and expressed his annoyance at being called 'Pep' by his Portuguese counterpart.

Barcelona, eight points above Real in the league, were still hurting from their Kings Cup final defeat and were allowed to dominate possession as Real sat deep in the third meeting between the two sides in just 12 days.

David Villa had the first sight on goal cutting inside before dispatching a shot just wide of the post in the 10th minute.

Jeers from home fans rung around the Bernabeu as Real followers were unhappy at Barcelona's control of the ball and the visitors almost scored in the 24th minute with Messi

sliding in Xavi but Iker Casillas saved well with his legs.

On the stroke of half-time Madrid had their first chance with Ronaldo's fierce drive fumbled by Victor Valdes.

A row between Seydou Keita and Alvaro Arbeloa continued as the players left the field and Barcelona's second choice goalkeeper Jose Manuel Pinto was sent off from the substitutes bench for losing his cool in a melee.

Early in the second half Messi had a half chance as Real were caught sleeping but his shot was blocked in the area.

Cristiano Ronaldo then caused problems at the other end with Puyol making up for his initial mistake with a fine block.

On the hour mark Real were reduced to ten men with Pepe red-carded for a late tackle on Dani Alves and joins Sergio Ramos in missing the return clash at Camp Nou.

Pepe lunged at Alves and was shocked not to see a yellow, as was Mourinho, who was sent to the stands for vehemently protesting.

Barcelona tried to capitalise on their extra man with Villa forcing a fingertip save from Casillas on 68 minutes.

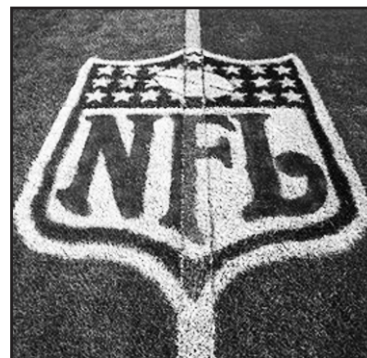
Then on 76 minutes substitute Afellay crossed and Messi converted with a volley at the near post.

It was the first goal Real had conceded at home in the Champions League this season, but the second arrived ten minutes later with Messi running from deep at speed, evading two challenges before sliding a right-footed shot past Casillas.

It leaves Madrid with a mountain to climb against their arch rivals who have two crucial away goals and have already crushed Madrid 5-0 at home in the league this season.

In yesterday's match in Gelsenkirchen, Manchester United produced a devastating attacking performance to record a 2-0 win over Schalke 04 in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final.

Players say lockout's end needed to preserve season



MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (AFP) - NFL players told a judge on Wednesday that her decision to stop a 45-day lockout by club owners must remain intact to preserve hopes for playing a 2011 season starting in September.

The filing by lawyers for NFL players in their anti-trust lawsuit against the league came in response to the NFL's request that US District Judge Susan Richard Nelson stay her order to reopen NFL facilities and end the lockout.

The NFL, which will appeal to the US Eighth circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis if Nelson does not grant a stay, has until late Wednesday to show why Nelson should grant their request following the filing by the players.

"This is the only way to preserve the 2011 season announced by the NFL, given the need to sign free agents, to complete the NFL draft and sign drafted players, to plan and to hold training camp, and to plan for the season itself," the players told Nelson in their court filing.

"Denying a stay will enable the NFL defendants to go back to operating their multibillion-dollar business and making enormous amounts of money, as they did previously."

Billionaire owners and millionaire players have been unable to agree on how to divide \$9.1 billion in annual revenues from America's most popular spectator sport, one embroiled in its first labor shutdown since 1987.

Players arrived at NFL club facilities across America on Tuesday only to be told they were not allowed to conduct any football-related activities such as working out. Many arrived to preserve contract clauses for workout bonus money.

The NFL Draft will be staged Thursday through Saturday but otherwise there has been no move for teams to sign free agents, make trades or otherwise conduct typical business of assembling squads for the upcoming season ahead of training camps that typically open in late July.

NFL officials expect the appeals court to conduct a hearing by early June but players argue that every day that passes causes significant harm to their careers.

Should business resume, it would likely come under prior work rules and last season was played without a salary cap under terms of the deal which expired last month.



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Bulls beat Pacers, Magic alive after Hawks win

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) — Derrick Rose and the Chicago Bulls eliminated Indiana as the hobbled point guard scored 24 points to lead the Bulls to a 116-89 win over the Pacers in game five of their NBA playoff series.

Luol Deng finished with 24 points on Tuesday for the top seeded Bulls who won the best-of-seven first round series four games to one.

"Speechless right now," Rose said. "I really can't believe it. It's a great accomplishment. I'm happy for my teammates, happy for my coaching staff. They did a really great job."

In the other Eastern Conference game Tuesday, the Orlando Magic staved off elimination by beating Atlanta 101-76 to set up a game six.

The Bulls will face the winner of the Hawks and Magic series, which continues tonight in the NBA play-off quarter-finals.

For a while the Bulls did-

n't know if Rose would be able to play after he sprained his left ankle in game four.

But Tuesday he made eight of 17 shots, scoring 10 points in the last six minutes of the third quarter. The Bulls took charge of the contest by going on a 23-8 run late in the third.

Joakim Noah finished with 14 points and eight rebounds for Chicago who won a playoff series for the first time since 2007 when they swept the Miami Heat in the opening round.

"All year long, we've focused in on going step by step," Thibodeau said. "I think once you start skipping steps and looking at all the other stuff, that's when you get lost. So we knew we were capable of playing better, although when you look at the series, to be up 3-1, you've got to do a lot of things well, too."

Danny Granger scored 20 for the Pacers but he didn't want to talk about that after the game. He blasted

Chicago's Noah accusing him of using his elbows illegally.

The Magic are trying to become just the ninth team in National Basketball Association history to rebound and win a playoff series after being down three games to one.

The last team to do it was Phoenix who fought back to beat the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the 2006 playoffs.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
NY YANKEES	12	7	.632	--
TAMPA	11	11	.500	2.5
BOSTON	10	11	.476	3.0
TORONTO	10	12	.455	3.5
BALTIMORE	8	12	.400	4.5

Central

CLEVELAND	13	8	.619	--
KANSAS CITY	12	10	.545	1.5
DETROIT	12	10	.545	1.5
MINNESOTA	9	12	.429	4.0
CHICAGO	9	14	.391	5.0

West

TEXAS	14	8	.636	--
LA ANGELES	13	10	.565	1.5
OAKLAND	11	12	.478	3.5
SEATTLE	8	15	.348	6.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
PHILADELPHIA	15	7	.682	--
FLORIDA	14	7	.667	0.5
WASHINGTON	10	11	.476	4.5
ATLANTA	11	13	.458	5.0
NY METS	9	13	.409	6.0

Central

ST. LOUIS	12	10	.545	--
CINCINNATI	12	11	.522	0.5
MILWAUKEE	11	11	.500	1.0
PITTSBURG	10	12	.455	2.0
CHICAGO	10	12	.455	2.0
HOUSTON	8	14	.364	4.0

West

COLORADO	15	7	.682	--
LA DODGERS	12	12	.500	4.0
SAN FRANCISCO	10	11	.476	4.5
ARIZONA	9	12	.429	5.5
SAN DIEGO	9	14	.391	6.5

Lakers use balanced attack to sting Hornets



LOS ANGELES (AFP) — The Los Angeles Lakers pushed New Orleans to the brink of elimination by using a balanced attack to defeat the Hornets 106-90 in game five of their NBA playoff series.

Kobe Bryant played through the pain of a sore ankle to score 19 points for the Lakers, who lead the best-of-seven opening round series 3-2.

Andrew Bynum finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Pau Gasol chipped in 16 points for the two-time defending NBA champion Lakers.

"They were beating us to 50/50 balls back in New Orleans so that was a conscious effort by us to win those balls tonight," Lakers centre Bynum said. "We all played defense tonight and kept

them to 90 points."

Los Angeles got off to a slow start Tuesday against the seventh seeded Hornets who got a 22-point performance from Trevor Ariza.

Chris Paul, who has been their best player in the series, had 20 points and 12 assists for the Hornets. New Orleans has lost three of four since shocking the Lakers in game one.

Game six is today at the New Orleans Arena.

The Hornets made 61 percent of their shots in the first half, but could not duplicate the feat in the second.

Bryant was at his vintage dunking best Tuesday as the Lakers led 54-51 at the half.

Paul answered with his own superb play and scored seven points in the final two minutes of the opening half..

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Pacquiao seeks impressive win over Mosley

LAS VEGAS (AFP) – Filipino pugilist Manny Pacquiao, hungrier than ever to fight after serving as a congressman, wants a more impressive victory over American veteran Shane Mosley next week than unbeaten rival Floyd Mayweather managed a year ago.

Pacquiao, 52-3 with two drawn and 38 knockouts, will defend his World Boxing Organization welterweight title on May 7 against 39-year-old American Mosley, who is 46-6 with one drawn and 39 knockouts and has never been knocked out.

"If the knockout comes it comes," Pacquiao said Wednesday. "I'm very focused, not for knockout, but to work hard. We're preparing

for 12 rounds. If I am looking for a knockout or underestimating my opponent, it could affect me."

Pacquiao, a 32-year-old southpaw who has won his past 13 fights over six years, said one of his goals is to produce a more impressive victory over Mosley than Mayweather's unanimous decision last May.

"That's what I want to do," Pacquiao said.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer, says every fight should end with a knockout and he would love "Pac-Man" to produce his first early stoppage since flattening Britain's Ricky Hatton two years ago by dropping Mosley.

"If Manny can be the first

one to stop him it would be a feather in his cap," Roach said. "It would be incredible. It would just prove how much better he is than that other guy that couldn't stop him (Mayweather)."

Mayweather has not fought since and Pacquiao said he would never take such a break without retiring from the sport. He said he thinks Mayweather wants age to weaken his punching power.

"I don't know if he wants to fight me or what the reason is, if he's waiting for me to get old," Pacquiao said. "I'm just waiting for that time."

Fight fans hope for such a showdown but Mayweather faces a hearing today on a domestic battery case that could result in 34 years behind bars.

Roach said Pacquiao has had the best start of a training camp that he has seen from the Asian superstar.

"He is really motivated for Shane Mosley. This might be the best training camp we've ever had," Roach said. "He had some down time. He was hungry for boxing again."

"From day one he has been on fire. We ran out of anywhere to go. I've had to hold him back."

Pacquiao said duties as a congressman kept him from workouts and made him hungry for the gym while some pre-camp jabbing sessions jump-started his workout regimen.

"I was hungry, excited, motivated to train hard," Pacquiao said. "I'm ready for the fight. I'm excited for this

fight because Mosley throws a lot of punches. He's a good fighter and a champion also."

Pacquiao is set to record a song and appear on US television this week, tasks he sees as enjoyable rather than distractions.

"I like to do a lot of things in my life, to motivate myself to train hard for this fight," Pacquiao said. "I'm happy with what I'm doing."

Asked about reports that he has already been offered a deal to fight Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez later this year, Pacquiao avoided a direct answer but said, "I can fight anyone in the ring."

Marquez's only loss since a split-decision defeat at the hands of Pacquiao in 2008 came to Mayweather in 2009.

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